

December 2002 Newsletter

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PVRC NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2002

PVRC HOLIDAY DINNER by Jack Hammett, K4VV

The Holiday Dinner will again be at the Olive Garden in Vienna this year. The Olive Garden is The event is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2002. The Olive Garden (tele 703-893-3175) is just west of the 495 Beltway at 8133 Leesburg Pike which is Route 7. (Off from 495, the Leesburg Pike exit number is old 10 or new 47. -editor) We will begin to gather in the bar about 5:30 or 6:00 PM for the early arrivers, and migrate to the dinner area about 6:30 to 7:00 PM, and get seated and begin ordering about 7:00 PM. The program will begin about 8, featuring Awards and our special speaker Ken, K4ZW.

Journey to Mongolia chronicles the visit of Ken Claerbout K4ZW and Karl Renz K4YT to Mongolia in November 2001 and September 2002. The purpose of this trip was to assist Chak, JT1CO with the installation of some low band antennas at his new house 25-Km northwest of Ulaanbaatar. The project's origin goes back to an early 2001 visit of JT1CO to the Washington DC area. During this time we had a chance to meet Chak and talk with him about our desire to help bolster his low band capabilities. Anyone involved in chasing 5BWAZ or 160 meter WAZ knows just how hard it has been to work zone 23 on 80 and 160 meters. Chak's new QTH provided the perfect opportunity to address this demand.

The 30 minute slide show covers the typically DX and contest interests. Included are audio clips of a 160-meter pileup to the West Coast and another clip of a European pileup on 10 meters during the 2001 CQWW CW contest. The presentation also provides a look at the far-flung country of Mongolia and the capital Ulaanbaatar. Ken's November visit was the headline article in the March 2002 issue of CQ Magazine.

To sign up pass an email ([\[email protected\]](#)) or pass a packet message to N3OC. Let's talk up the dinner with our friends. Recall that family or other interested guests are welcome.

Building The W3SO, FN00sn, Contest Station
By Roy Goshorn, W3TEF, and Ed Steeble, K3IXD

It began with the purchase of mountaintop property 100 miles east of Pittsburgh on top of Wopsononock Mountain in the Allegheny Mountains by W3YOZ. The location is not far from his hometown of Altoona, PA. Those three acres are the now the home of W3SO, a competitive Limited-Multi (LM) VHF contest station in grid square FN00.

Beginning with portable field-day type equipment and operating from tents and using the call W3YOZ, experienced VHFers KA3EJJ, KC3EK and N3CDY, and some top notch PVRC operators found the site to be a good one for VHF communications. Subsequently the Wopsononock Mountain Top Operators got their own call, W3SO, in May 2000.

Today, the QTH has a permanent two room wooden building with all the features of a home shack, namely electricity, a full bath, and a kitchen! Because of the round the clock noise from the various operations taking place during a contest, the group stays either at local member W3TEF=FES home or at a motel for a good nights rest.

When configured for VHF, there are now six operating positions, one each for 50, 144, 222, 432 MHz., the fifth is for 146 MHz FM and the sixth is a spare. Currently the 50, 144 and 432 MHz operators are in oneroom and the 222 and 146 FM operators are in a larger room that also houses the kitchen and a small storage-workshop area.

W3SO began by operating with low power VHF rigs and has evolved to now operating with an ICOM 756PRO on 50MHz, an ICOM 746PRO on 144MHz, a classic ICOM IC-375A and a 130w Mirage brick on 222 MHz, and a Yaesu FT736R on 432 MHz. On 50, 144, and 432 MHz, Lunar-Link Systems amplifiers provide 1.5kw PEP output. To help the operators dig out the weak signals, SSB Electronics pre-amps are used.

Being on a mountaintop means that the receivers are susceptible to a lot of out of band signals, especially from "paging" systems. Also the transmitter at one position may interfere with a receiver at another position. To combat these problems, in addition to using good receivers, all signals are routed through DCI filters to eliminate or reduce the interference.

At the 50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz positions are 486 computers with DOS running the CT contest software. A planned station upgrade is to network the computers. Currently the operators use paper slips to inform each other of stations that are being moved from

one band to another, and each band's pass frequency.

Initially the antennas were small beams on 40 and 50 feet high field day type masts. Today there are five towers. This year, in the time between the January and June ARRL VHF contests, coax runs to all antennas were replaced with half inch or 7/8 inch hardline, resulting in W3SO=FES highest contest score yet.

The VHF antennas today consist of a seven element C3I beam on 50 MHz at 75 feet, a 17 element Force 12 beam on 144 MHz at 70 feet, a 10 element M2 beam on 222 MHz at 85 feet, and a 25 element C3I beam on 432 MHz at 95 feet. For 2m FM QSOs W3SO has a Diamond vertical mounted on a telephone pole at 30 feet, also fed with hardline.

As with all evolving projects like this, everything is interim, antenna wise, and plans are already well in the works for higher gain beams on taller towers.

Current operators of the station consist of K4VV, WR3Z, AI3M, K3IXD, K3RUQ, W3PAW, W9NET, W3TEF and W3YOZ. Occasional operators are WX3B, N3SB, W3BZN, and WB3EFQ. W3YOZ and W3TEF handle the majority of the installation and erection of the towers and antennas. W3TEF is the QSL manager. K3IXD submits the logs electronically.

W3SO participates in the January, June and September ARRL VHF contests as a limited-multi (50 MHz, 144MHz, 222MHz, and 432MHz). For the CQ July VHF contest, W3SO enters in the single-operator category. For ARRL club competition contests, W3SO is one of the Potomac Valley Radio Club=FES (PVRC) entries. The W3SO operators wish to thank the PVRC members and the other readers of Newsletter for many QSOs and they look forward to giving out FN00 in future contests.

The paper edition ran a photograph of:

Standing L-R: K3RUQ N1WR K4VV W3PAW W3YOZ AI3M WR3Z & K2PLF
Kneeling L-R: K3IXD W3TEF
Missing: KD3SA

PVRC PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2002,

by Brian McGinness, N3OC

This newsletter edition is going out a little early so you will receive it in time to receive the details for the annual PVRC holiday dinner to be held on December 9. See the article in this issue for the details, and we hope to see you there!

I am writing this just after Phone Sweepstakes. While we made a good showing, and the scores seem higher per log than ever, I

also heard more W9's on than I thought possible. It seems they were executing a plan, which included working each other on 40 meters during a particular time period. So keep your fingers crossed, and we'll have to see how it shakes out. Make sure to send your logs in, and tell the robot it is for "Potomac Valley Radio Club". The robot does not like "PVRC" or any other variation.

PVRC has won the WPX USA club competition the past several years, so maybe we should be thinking about a serious effort in that next year. We will be giving out the two WPX plaques we have received as well as some gavels at the holiday dinner.

This is my last president's report. Jack Hammett, K4VV will be taking over in January, and I can assure you PVRC will be in good hands. I have a whole list of unfinished business to give him, and he even has a few good ideas of his own. I'm sure he will continue to rely on the trustees for guidance, and be a great leader for our club.

I won't be going anywhere, I seem to like PVRC so much that I will be sticking around as one of your VP's. As you may have noted we will have two VP's next year, one up north and one down south. This will allow the regions down south, the NC region in particular, to participate in PVRC decisions at the top levels.

It has been an honor to be president of PVRC for three years now. I first learned of PVRC from a guy I used to chat with on 146.94 simplex (no repeaters on 94 back then!) when I was a newly licensed kid. His call was W3BQV (now W3ZZ), and he encouraged my interests in ham radio so that when I really got serious about things, PVRC was the first thing that came to mind. Never in my wildest imagination would I have thought I would end up being president of PVRC, and sitting at W3LPL on 80 meters keeping the W1's honest.

I really need to thank those that do so much for PVRC. There are a bunch of guys who do things behind the scenes on a monthly basis, to help bring you the newsletter, the 5m award, the web site, tracking our contest scores, keeping our finances in order just to name a few.

Dick Wilder K3DI has been our newsletter editor since February 1996. Dick and his helpers compose the newsletter, merge the addresses from the secretary's database, duplicate and mail the newsletter. This is a big job, it involves doing things and going places to meet deadlines. Thank you Dick for a job well done.

Bob Dannals W2GG (Mr. Excel) not only maintains our membership databases, he also tracks our contest scores for each and every contest, and attempts to verify they receive each of your logs

that he knows about, and analyze the results. This too is a big job, collecting all your scores from email, reflectors, packet, and maybe even smoke signals some times.

Our treasurer, Dave Baugher WR3L has maintained our finances perfectly for us over the past few years. Our voluntary donation in lieu of dues program has been a real success, so we have the money to publish the newsletter, support contest plaques, purchase our 5m award plaques, and make the occasional donation on PVRC's behalf.

Our webmaster (since the passing of K3SA) has been Pete, N4ZR. Although Pete recently handed this off to Howie N4AF, Pete put a lot of time and effort into the web site and the 5m award program over the past few years. Pete, thanks for your work and your advice! And Howie, thanks for taking it on in spite of your own busy schedule, and to Glen WM3T for taking on the 5m award tracking.

All the regional coordinators have been great. Thank you for conducting all the meetings, getting all the minutes posted, and coordinating all the presentations that have been given throughout the regions.

To the Trustees, I appreciate your guidance on the important issues that have effected us the last couple years. We will continue to rely on the trustees in the coming years, perhaps even more so as we fine-tune the leadership responsibilities now that we have spread out so far.

And my heartfelt thanks to our VP the last three years, Jack Hammett K4VV, who will be our president in 2003. Jack has coordinated all of our major events that last three years, and we have had in some excellent speakers as a result.

We will be working together to bring in more speakers and programs of interest this coming year.

So there you have it. I'm outta here.... sort of! I'm off to put up some towers! THANK YOU! GO PVRC!

PVRC/NC NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES by Jim Price, WW4M

The 7 November 2002 NC meeting was held at Ryan's Steakhouse, Crossroads Plaza, Cary. Attending: K2AV Guy, K07X Alan, K4QPL Jim, N4YDU Nate, N2NFG Bob, W2DZO (ex N4VHK) Henry, N4CW Bert, NX9T Jeff, K4NYS Chuck, K4HA Bob, KR4LO Bill, N4AF Howie, WW4M Jim, N4TL Tom, WJ9B Will. Regrets from K4TMC Henry.

K2AV Guy appeared early and promptly left, begging off with a newly discovered bad cold, so Carnac was not available to take notes this month.

According to a next-day report from Carnac, Guy had driven the whole distance from work to the meeting with a clothespin on his nose to keep from snorting on his shirt. Was so out of it by the time he got home he couldn't remember what rooms the beds were in. Under medication got up the next morning without the clothespin, but tried to fry an egg without taking the shell off first. XYL banned him from anything using electricity so he wouldn't burn the house down.

Club News

WW4M reported that PVRC has purchased additional name badge blanks from TheSignMan.com (including 20 that say "North Carolina"), paid from the club treasury. Members interested in ordering new/ replacement badges can contact The Sign Man via his website, unless you ordered earlier through Dave WR3L. (PS - I got home and found an email message saying it turns out that the badges aren't actually finished yet, due to hurricanes, required parts, etc.)

Guy K2AV has paid QTH.net for the annual renewal of the pvrnc.org domain (\$14.95) and a year of webhosting (\$120). Not sure whether he still needs additional contributions to cover the cost, although in the past he had passed a hat around and received private promises of assistance.

Tom N4TL asked the manager of the Applebee's on Six Forks at Sawmill in North Raleigh about providing an alternate place for our meetings, separate checks, etc. Apparently he feels things are too busy to handle us Thursdays through Sundays, but Mon/ Tues/ Wednesdays would be fine. They have a private room (sheltered from the smoke in the rest of the restaurant). It was suggested that perhaps we could have a trial meeting there to see how it meets our needs.

Member News

This past month K4HA and K4NYS worked on putting up Rohn-45 at K4ITL (not a contester) -- they are still waiting for 3 sections to arrive so they can bring the tower to 90 feet and finish the job. Bob dabbled in CQWW-SSB a bit but didn't submit a log. Chuck worked the ARRL VHF contest and did submit a score.

NX9T had fun in CQWW SSB. Jeff skipped SS CW in order to earn brownie points with the XYL so he can operate SS Phone.

K07X announced he will operate in the U category for Phone Sweepstakes. This prompted everyone to wonder aloud where in the world K3KO and W2CS were hiding following their heated email exchange on the merits of going U or B in SS.

N4TL operated in CQP, SSCW, and even got on for CQWW Phone, which was amazing considering that his daughter got married that weekend. Tom mentioned that he ordered a pin and cup but has received no reply and his check hasn't been deposited. N3OC will be looking into matters for him.

K4QPL operated SO-assisted and racked up 805 Qs and 78 mults in SS CW. He said the wire 40m yagi he hung in the trees made the difference. For show-and-tell he brought his customized wrist rocket, to which he had mounted a fishing reel with the hardware from a 1980s-era cell phone mobile mount. He recommended brass fishing weights over lead weights. A passionate discussion of the merits of bows and arrows and other launching devices followed. Jim promises to plug in a mic for SS Phone.

N2NFG operated SS CW but not in CQWW Phone -- he has been working every Saturday and Sunday, which doesn't leave much time for contesting. Using a recently purchased Icom 706 and a 80m dipole he scored 50K points and thought the rig held up well in a contesting environment using 350 and 1.8 filters (but he won't use it for SS Phone). Everyone agreed the 706 makes a great second rig. Bob is looking for a mobile antenna and no-frills keyer for his long commutes to and from work.

N4YDU is happy that his old neighbor has moved to California. His new neighbor lets him put aluminum in his trees and hasn't had any RFI complaints. Nate tried out a new protein drink called "Red Bull" during CQWW Phone -- he was pooping out when he tried it and got a second wind that lasted 2 hours. He suspects its secret ingredient is amphetamine (he had built up a tolerance when he tried it again on Sunday and didn't get as big a kick with the second dose).

Nate didn't operate much in SS CW, but he recently got a rig blaster and will be on the air this weekend for WAE, trying out various antennas. He also recently purchased a 75V1 with slide dial for his dad, and he is tempted to keep it.

N4AF reported that CQWW Phone was fun on Saturday but a lot of work on Sunday. He's getting ready for CQWW CW and will be putting up a new rotatable stack on 15m. Howie announced he has no plans for SS Phone and invited guest ops over for that contest -- K4QPL immediately took him up on the offer. Lots of laughing about K4QPL operating from K4PQL.

KR4LO got on for CQWW and discovered that his four 450-foot long wires that had worked so well last year didn't this year. Bill discovered the cause was water that had accumulated in the conduit that carried the feed line. He'll be laying out a new feedline for CQWW CW, and he received numerous suggestions from twin coax feeds to sump pumps. He also has plans to erect a Sterba curtain. (This type of ant. was used for transatlantic

communications in the 30's through the 50's. They are also used by VOA now.)

WJ9B proudly reported that he finally broke 1,000 Qs in SS CW, and it all happened by accident. After making his first Q he knocked the computer mouse off the desktop, causing the computer to lockup. A watched computer does not reboot quickly, and he became so angry that he took his first 30-minute break and walked away. Resuming the contest, Will decided to try SO2R by running on 40m and doing S&P on the other bands, and he was excited to find that it worked and he found a rhythm. Almost all of his run Qs were on 40m (696 contacts).

There followed a group discussion on the merits for low power/QRP stations of not operating at the very start of a contest. People also said they were surprised by how close they could work other stations on the high bands in SS CW.

W2DZO (ex N4VHK) brought greetings from the Winston-Salem area club members. He described the groups past M/S ops as W4WS and how this year they started to create a new clubstation (making sure it was inside the PVRC circle), only to have someone back a trailer over their new tower 2 weeks after it was erected. So KG4NEP will be hosting their efforts this year and they are putting their efforts into putting up antennas on his property, describing it as a champagne station on a bad beer budget. PVRC members are invited to come on out and operate with them. He says the receiving stations can still use some work.

Henry's new callsign was his grandfather's, so he used his grandfather's check ('32') in SS CW, resulting in a good deal of confusion. After using monoband yagis this year he is now a convert. He asked for suggestions for a good (tunable) amp to replace some old SB-220s, and the unanimous reply was the AL-1200.

N4CW had fun chasing mults in CQWW Phone. He had just returned to Raleigh at 10pm, got on by 11pm and was exhausted by 2am. Bert was tickled to receive a certificate from ARRL for first place SOHP in NC for the 160m contest, using just an inverted vee. He recommended that people check out the log-checking reports available on the ARRL website, and brought to everyone's attention the write-up for the 2001 10m contest by our own AA4NC.

WW4M brought in his plaque for first place 2001 Phone Sweeps, Roanoke Division, Bravo category to show that even modest ops can receive a trophy if they operate from a good station (K3KO), work all 24 hours, and make sure not to operate in the same category as the big guns. That said, everyone expects him to have to operate as Unlimited this year following the email exchange between K3KO and W2CS on the subject of using packet.

To quote a ham sage, "Meeting turned over to miscellany and scientific BS at 7:15."

CENTRAL MEETING MINUTES, 11/11/02 by Brian McGinness, N3OC

Here are the minutes from the November central meeting.

The meeting was held in Temple Hills at 7:30. Members attending were N3OC, K3PN, W3TOM, and WR3L.

The meeting began with a discussion on how to re-vamp the central region. It was felt that more programs and speakers and less club business would probably help attendance. It was also suggested that PVRC explore the possibility of setting up a contesting academy to help show some of the newer members the ropes, and that would possibly help meeting attendance.

N3OC gave a brief president's report. The annual holiday dinner will be held 12/9 at the Oliva Garden in Tyson's Corner Va. Send email RSVP's to [\[email protected\]](#) or via packet to n3oc. The results of the annual elections were announced, all candidates being elected.

The annual push is in progress for SS. The CW section is over, and it looks like we are in about the same position as we were last year, although it does seem some of our individual scores are better.

We need input and suggestions for future meeting programs, topics, and speakers. This is a difficult task to keep up with over the years, and we could use some fresh ideas and suggestions.

WR3L gave the treasurer's report, and had the balance sheet available for inspection. Dave also advised he renewed our sponsorship of all the contest plaques that PVRC sponsors.

The remaining time was devoted to war stories.

N3OC went to V26B for a three-person multi/2 effort, and they did around 21m points and almost 12,000 QSOs. He advises he will be going to Greensboro to pick up a tower Friday before SSB sweepstakes, and will arrive home just before the start of the contest. Only a few more sections of Rohn 45g are needed to complete the two towers, then construction can start. In the meanwhile, he has an A-4 w/40m kit on a rocket launcher and some beverages up at the new QTH in Brookeville, Md.

WR3L was on for a multiop effort for CW SS, and will do the same for SSB. WR3Z and K3FT come over and help Dave operate.

W3TOM will not be at the holiday dinner as he will be travelling. He hopes to get on for SSB SS.

Ed K3PN will be on for SSB SS with his new call for the first contest. Ed went to IH9P (African Italy) for CQWW SSB. They spent three days setting the station up, two days operating it, and one day taking it all back down. Everything is transported to the island by ferry boat from Sicily. The IH9P group has some stuff stored in garages on the island, and some they bring. They take over the hotel for a week and turn it into a multi/multi station. Ed says they did 53M this year, and the IH9P group is interested in making a future presentation at one of our meetings about their operation. The meeting was adjourned at 9pm. GO PVRG!

11/12/2002 CVCC MEETING by John Youell, W4TNX

The cold and rainy evening kept down the "pre-meeting" crowd at the "Crazy Greek" restaurant as we only had 11 people present. Tonight we held our meeting in the cafeteria of the Henrico Doctors Hospital on Parham Road, about 5 miles west of the "Crazy Greek". The cafeteria closes at 7PM and is available to be reserved, after that time, so we may be using this place for a few meetings and decide on its future suitability.

Bob (W4DR) opened the meeting at 7:30PM (we allowed an extra half hour over our normal time for people to find the new meeting location, this first time - we will revert back to 7PM in January). In keeping with recent tradition, we did introductions around the room asking for a recent good or bad radio related experience. Bob started with the good news that if we liked the new meeting place, the rent was free. Paul (K4JA) has been busy in CQWW SSB with #2 USA in M/2, Bruce (W3BP) has 2 new antennas - a 5 element beam and an 80M vertical, John (W4TNX) is about to upgrade (finally) the shack computer from DOS to Windows, while Jerry (K4KJL) has been busy at work. Jerry's wife Marie (K4KML) worked a 7Q on 15M today - FB Marie! Rick (K4GAU) was happy to have the evening off and to be able to make the meeting. Rosalie (N4CFL) said hi to all, and Jim, our guest speaker W4PRO, bemoaned the fact that his new QTH presently only sports 100 watts and a wire antenna. Jim's new wife Linda (KG4UKS) was happy to be present. Bob (W4MYA) is #6 USA M/M in CQWW SSB and #11 in SS - he also put in a RTTY effort in last weekend's contest. Ronnie (WU4G) is still in the job hunt mode and AJ (W4NM) just got his Dulcie Island QSL. Ralph (N4EHJ) noted that N1BIC has been kind enough to give us permission to put Buckmaster on our cluster. Jim-Bob (KC4AUG) has just installed a couple of new 12v batteries at his QTH and is ready for power outages and emergency communications. Ed (KG4SNK) is a new ham recently retired from AT&T and heard about the meeting on 2 meters - welcome Ed! Another Ed (NW4V) had fun in the CQWW SSB at

W4MYA's M/M effort and also worked the Vatican on 15M for a new band country this morning. Bob (NK4H) worked so many new countries that he couldn't remember all the names, got confused and didn't log them - he figures, if they really want his QSL, they will send for it! Dave (N4DWK) came in after intros, but without his recent cane, so it looks like his foot injury has improved.

Bob (W4DR) asked about upcoming contests and noted that the ARRL SS SSB is this weekend and the CQWW DX CW Contest is the next weekend. The PVRC is really looking for SS scores, so if you can get on the air this weekend and make some SS points, they will really be appreciated. This is the first time in a number of years that the CQWW DX CW Contest has not been on Thanksgiving weekend, so that excuse should be out the window for all you CW operators out there! Only about 5 operators present tonight showed interest in operating at W4MYA's for M/M. Paul (K4JA) indicated he has 6 operators lined up for his M/2 operation.

The Va. QSO Party Sponsors asked us what we thought about dropping the hours in that contest. Our group discussed this and felt that a 24 hour format would be OK. We have traditionally used this as a fun training contest. The thought was that maybe 8AM to 8AM would give all-around propagation, band and band conditions. W4TNX will send an e-mail to SPARC with these CVCC recommendations.

Paul's (K4JA) packet spots are really providing a "shot-in-the-arm" for contests. In the CQWW DX SSB, there were several hours of over 1K spots/hour and about 35K total. Paul is doing this with a "dial-up" link!

Roy (WK4Y) wasn't present, but sent an e-mail to Bob (W4DR), requesting that people firm up their Christmas Dinner commitments, as we have reserved a minimum number of "seats" and could incur some expenses with "no-shows". Details are in our last newsletter. Please respond to Roy ASAP, if you haven't already.

After some discussion, it was decided we will use the Henrico Doctors Hospital cafeteria again for the January 2003 meeting. This meeting will be at 7PM, back to our old meeting time. The Shoney's at Broad and Skipwith will be the "pre-meeting" place for the pre-meeting "eat & meet" crowd (optional at 5:30PM).

Our guest speaker tonight was Jim (W4PRO), who has been kind enough to have been a previous co-presenter with W4DR on their YK DX-Pedition. Jim is a retired engineer who worked for NASA. The topic was a "Home-Brew Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR)". The device Jim built was in a small "Bud box" and contained 2 ICs, 2 caps, 2 resistors and a crystal + batteries and connectors. This device, when used with a decent Oscilloscope (>10Mhz) will give a

good indication (distance) as to where you may have an impedance mismatch or problem with a transmission line. The TDR is basically a square wave pulse generator and based on the way you use the 'scope, you can either determine the "length" of transmission line to a problem area (connector, kink, etc.) or the velocity factor of the coax. For those stations with lots of buried or "up the tower" coax, knowing a "problem" distance would be great troubleshooting information. Bob (W4MYA) regularly uses TDRs and I could tell Paul (K4JA) was interested. Bob (W4MYA) reported on several successes he has had using TDRs at not only his place, but at least one at W4DR's. Good program, Jim (W4PRO), & good programming, Bob (W4DR)!

Next meeting is the Christmas Dinner in December - check our newsletter or call Roy (WK4Y) for details.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER PVRC NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES by David Jones, N4JED, Sec SWVA Chapter

Southwest Virginia Chapter PVRC met Friday November 1 at the Roanoker Restaurant. Among the illustrious hams in attendance were K1GG, KC9LC, N4EL, KC4D, W4JAM and WOMAN, W4YE and his wife Sarah, Chairman N4GU and Secretary N4JED. WM3T and KF4OKG were noticeably absent preparing for the imminent birth of their child that weekend.

Following an excellent dinner, Mike N4GU mentioned he was playing with a 1940's J38 which led to a spirited debate of the merits of bugs, paddles and straight keys. General opinion that there were many operators using bugs, but not intelligibly.

A general discussion of CQWW followed. W4YE pounced and hunted 838 contacts. W4DF passed along his proud thrill at beating out 'MYA and 'LPL in 160 meter pileups. KC4D tallied 120 contacts. W4JAM pounced on 600+ stations in spite of loosing the receiver in his 756 PRO half way through. After realizing the bands weren't dead, a quick switch in rigs kept him going. N4JED rang up an additional 520 contacts on his low power vertical. New members were reminded to send their totals in to PVRC in addition to the contest sponsor.

A passionate discussion of the club name was led by W4YE (no bias there...). After reviewing the club history, name, how the circle of coverage worked, etc., all present wished to express their support as an outlying chapter to keep the club name as is. A unanimous vote followed.

As is tradition, the Holiday meeting of the Southwest Virginia Chapter PVRC will be held January 3rd at the Roanoker Restaurant. After reviewing contest schedules for the coming year, first Friday meetings were selected for the coming year. So mark your

calendars. Look for April's meeting to be held in Lynchburg - site to be announced.

Everyone was encouraged to get on the contests and turn in scores - no matter how small. Every point counts for the club total. The meeting then adjourned to the parking lot for further radio tales.

The PVRC NEWSLETTER is in dire need of an advertising manager. I pick up extra advertisers only for the jumbo May issue that contains the club roster. If somebody did follow up, this newsletter could generate a monthly profit for the club.

NORTHWEST MEETING NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2002 by Ed Steeple, K3IXD, chairman, NW Region (These notes were received in Oct. -editor)

The NW region met at City Buffet in Frederick, MD on 15 October 2002. In attendance were: K3DNE, WZ3AR, N3FX, W8ZA, K3IXD, K2PLF, W3KHZ, N3VOP, AA3XZ, W3ARS, and W2CDO.

The business part of the meeting:

- 1) This was W2CDO, Peter, second meeting. We voted him in as a new PVRC member. Welcome Peter.
- 2) We voted for new club officers for next year and the tally has been emailed.
- 3) The dates for the contests through January were given. Several mentioned that they had already made plans so they would be off from work on the contests weekends.
- 4) It was reported that W3ZZ is recovering from successful hip surgery.

Around the table:

K3DNE, Ed mentioned that W3ZZ is the new QST VHF editor. Ed said that W3MC is looking for some assistance with the JOTA and will be operating in Anne Arundel county. Ed has begun plans for a new, higher, tower so he can add more UHF bands. He will be at W8ZA for CQWW.

WZ3AR, Nat was home during mid-semester break. When asked about the college station he said they can use more donations, for which the donator gets a tax deduction letter. Donators can contact Nat at .

N3FX, Tony had a power surge last summer. He is planning on being on for SS. He worked the TARA PSK Rumble and had several hundred QSOs.

He ran K3IXD through the bands (40m through 6m).

W8ZA, Bob is getting ready for CQWW. He has installed two, phased, 75m verticals.

K3IXD, Ed made 29 QSOs in two hours of operating in the TARA Rumble and got several new band/mode countries from N3FX. Ed has a new IC-706mk11G, some Ham Sticks, and is looking forward to trying HF mobile. He will be at W8ZA for CQWW.

K2PLF, Marty had a power failure and it took out his Quadra Amp power supply. It is on its way back to Yaesu. He, initially, had his 6m beam installed too close to the HF beam. But now with a 6 foot separation, he is working 6m DX. Marty said N4RV might not be ready for CQWW so his CQWW plans haven't been firmed up.

N3VOP, Mike announced that the Carroll County Club will again have a demonstration contest station on at the hamfest. This will be during CQWW SSB. They are asking for any PVRCer who attend the hamfest to stop by and guest ops to insure that the score qualifies for PVRC. Their demonstration contest station is successful in recruiting new testers.

W3KHZ, Art got an FT 847 for 6m DX and then the bands went dead. He said he needs 49 more states for 6m WAS and 335 countries for m Honor Roll. He has a 5 el, m beam to replace his m dipole and a 40 foot tower that is still on the ground. While he was at Prince Edward Island this summer, he kept in touch with K2PLF via EchoLink. EchoLink links computers through the internet to repeaters. The web page is: .

AA3XZ, Brian has been too busy at work to do contesting.

W3ARS, Clint was glad to finally be able to attend a NW meeting. He entered the 10-X contest and the VHF contest. At home he works 160m through 222 MHz. He will be adding 432 MHz soon. He likes to operate from hilltops in the VHF contests and built a 144/432 quad (7 el on 144, 11 el on 432) and used it in the June contest..

W2CDO, Peter joined PVRC at this meeting. He got his half square 40m antenna up and worked some DX before a support rope broke. He will be on SS CW low power, and maybe a little in CQWW, depending upon work.

Seconds:

There was a reminder to submit your contest scores, no matter the what the claimed score is, and also send W2GG a copy so he can insure the club gets proper credit. To win the club competition, PVRC needs everyone to get on and make some QSOs, and to submit them to ARRL or CQ, as appropriate. Be sure to mark your entry "Potomac Valley Radio Club."

There was a question about whether or not the club would be issuing SS incentive certificates again this year. No one present knew the answer.

W8ZA couldn't transfer a Carbillio file on a 3 1/2 inch disk from his contest computer to a Compaq Presario computer. It was mentioned that Presario's are known for having trouble reading floppy disks that are created on other machines.

Several mentioned that it is possible to turn in a respectable SS score in the low power category. There are only so many station to work.

Next meeting is November 19th, and is at the City Buffet, 1306 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD, 301-682-6066. It is in a small shopping center. From W. Patrick Street, turn up McCain Dr. (the Mountain View Diner is on the corner), then turn right into the shopping center, then turn left and search for a parking place. The City Buffet is tucked back in the left corner of the shopping center behind Mountain View Diner; you can't see it from the street.

The NW Region meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month. Most arrive about 6PM for dinner and informal discussions; the meeting begins at 7:15 PM.

OVER-THE-HILL LUNCHEON, 11/20/02 by Bill Leavitt, W3AZ

The Over The Hill Group met November 20th at the Holiday Inn at the junction of Route 1 and the Beltway. Those attending were W3ABC, W2BZR, K3ZO, W3CB, N7PD, K6IR, W6AXX, W3GN, K3WX, W3BE, AA4XU, and W3AZ. It sounded like the phone Sweepstakes with a number of simultaneous QSOs around the table dealing with about any topic of amateur radio. In between good food was enjoyed by all.

EDITOR NOTES by K3DI

Last month, I ran a list of calls of members that one might wish to spot during domestic contests. The list was inappropriately labeled as "eligible members." I needed a quick way to pick out actives and used an eligibility selection process based on what was later discovered to be an obsolete logic. The result was some actives calls were not on the list and some inactive calls were listed. Please do not be concerned. The actually eligibility determination used by the club uses a current and correct logic.

The REFERENCE PAGE has been omitted from this issue. It will return in January. One change since November is under

Woodbridge, Jack W4NF info is now:
H:703-791-3302 W:703-739-7636 [\[email protected\]](#)

Howie, N4AF, is working on putting a calendar of PVRC meetings on www.pvrc.org. As a start, he'll probably extract meeting information from the PVRC NEWSLETTER reference page. Please watch for the calendar on the web page and help him keep it updated.

The USPS is busy again changing stuff! I just found out that in June there was a change to how "presorted standard mail" (bulk mail) is prepared. Previously, I needed to put rubber bands around 21 bundles based on zip codes and stick a green-3 or pink-A on certain bundles. Now, no rubber banding; in fact they charge extra if I do use bands. Now, I toss zip codes starting with 210, 211, 212, and 214 into four separate trays and all the rest sorted in zip code order into one or more trays, as needed. We've dropped the bar code; we now send the newsletter as "machinable" so the USPS will bar code zip+4+route to sort directly in order for the delivery route person.

S C O R E S by Bob Dannals, W2GG

Corrections, additions, etc. to [\[email protected\]](#)
=3D missing data

WAE RTTY 2002 #2 15-Nov-02

Single Op - High Power

CALL	QSOs	QTCs	MULTs	SCORE
K4GMH	1073	1396	670	1,654,230
K3KO	457	0	131	127,182
N4CW	137	130	49	26,166
K3SV	64	130	75	14,550

Single Op - Low Power

W0YR/4	527	260	312	318,735
K4WES	147	190	94	70,433
N4YDU	103	22	42	10,875

Logs: 6 Club Score: 2,222,171

CQWW SSB #7 18-Nov-02

Call Pwr-Bnd Qs Zones Countries Score

Single Op - Unassisted

K4ZW	C	3202	150	547	6,353,852
K3ZO	C	3136	137	486	5,547,192
NX9T	C	1860	115	382	2,563,526
WR3Z	C	1416	127	417	2,139,008

NR3X	B	1320	103	111	1,651,188
K2UOP	C	1002	115	384	1,397,699
W4ZV	C10	2022	34	157	1,106,463
N3UM	C	873	90	301	951,694
N4MM	C	762	109	319	905,220
N4CW	C	800	87	294	853,821
W4YE	C	838	78	269	816,144
K3JT	B	734	79	258	683,436
N4GU	C	607	95	257	596,992
N3HBX	C15	1273	35	130	585,750
W3LL	B	610	80	258	562,094
K3DSP	B	638	72	228	530,400
K1KO	C	577	67	231	476,502
K3WA	C	500	75	243	441,702
K4EU	B	510	94	220	426,098
N4JED	B	520	69	195	375,936
N4EL	C	500	65	199	361,416
N4MO	B15	566	33	129	258,714
KO7X	C	347	79	158	224,202
W3AZ	C	359	61	161	221,334
KE4MIL	B	351	47	163	203,490
W3CP	B	274	69	163	175,160
K4UVT	B	260	64	172	165,672
AA4KD	B	211	60	120	94,680
KR4LO	B	313	35	120	138,260
K3SWZ	B20	312	32	104	115,328
N3FX	C	216	55	116	101,232
N8II	C	200	60	121	98,283
K4WES	B	201	52	112	83,312
W4RIM	C	165	36	90	53,460
N4TL	C	147	44	90	52,394
W4XP	B	145	45	90	49,815
N8CH	C	118	32	82	38,760
KC4D	C	115	37	80	36,036
W3JRY	B	100	34	81	31,510
N3FNE	B	120	28	63	28,938
W3ARS	B	###	##	##	26,160
N3ZR	B	84	25	47	15,624
N3XL	B	13	8	12	520

Single Op - Assisted

K2PLF	C	2117	135	500	3,817,620
W4RM	C	1847	119	440	2,972,203
N3AM	C	1675	119	435	2,656,984
K3LP	C	1227	127	454	1,966,685
WX3B	C	1257	90	327	1,508,706
KV3R	C	1067	112	361	1,443,596
K3KO	C	725	111	383	1,000,350
W3HVQ	C	508	113	337	616,950
N4GG	C	595	76	256	551,784
KO4MR	C10	285	146	32	144,892
K3SV	C	250	78	206	118,192

K2YWE TS 38 17 36 5,459

Multi-Single

W4WS	C	2208	149	574	4,306,911
W3LJ	C	728	93	316	807,366
W3LRC	B	310	53	152	169,330
W3SO	C	75	23	45	13,804

Multi-2

K4JA	C	4893	177	717	12,171,810
K3DI	C	2346	151	558	4,629,061

Multi-Multi

W3LPL	C	7676	186	761	19,379,408
W4MYA	C	4999	178	698	11,723,508
W8ZA	C	2479	150	578	5,562,648

A: QRP

B: Low Power

C: High Power

TS: Tribander + single element 160-40

BR: Band Restricted

R: Rookie

Logs: 62 Club Score: 107,106,284

Operators (non-PVRC):

K3DI: W3ICM K3DI (W4EE SM0WKA)

K4JA: K4JA W3BP K4MA K7SV KE9I (AJ9C)

NR3X: N4YDU

W3LJ: W3LJ W3IDT KA3UBJ (K3NCO)

W3LPL: K1HTV AI3M W2GG W3LPL KD4D K3RA K4ZA KE3Q K1RA K1RZ
K3MM NK3R (4X6FR)

W3LRC: K3HDM KB3BWR KT3D W3YD

W3SO: W3YOZ W3TEF

W4WS: WS4NC KG4NEP WB4MSG W2DZO KB6MTH (AG4RZ KG4CZU WA4IAM)

W8ZA: W8ZA K3DNE K8OQL K3IXD WD3A

WR3Z at N1WR QTH

KO7X at KI7WX QTH

ARRL CW SS#6 18-Nov-02

Call	Prec	QSOs	Sec	Score
N4AF	B	1318	79	208,244
W4MR	U	1249	80	199,840
WR3L	M	1198	80	191,680
KD4D	U	1119	80	179,040
N4ZR	B	1117	79	176,486
K3ZO	B	1125	78	175,500
WJ9B	A	1035	78	161,460

W4MYA	U	1009	80	161,440
NY3A	#	1021	79	161,318
W4NF	U	996	80	159,360
N8II	A	941	80	150,560
KO7X	U	939	80	150,240
W3EF	A	970	75	150,228
N4MO	A	850	79	134,300
N6ZO	U	826	80	132,160
N3AM	B	827	79	130,666
K4TX	B	826	78	128,856
K2PLF	A	800	80	128,000
W3PP	B	784	80	125,440
K4QPL	A	803	78	125,268
N4GU	A	819	76	124,488
N3UM	B	801	77	123,354
N3SB	A	792	77	121,968
W4IDX	A	777	78	121,212
K3KO	U	725	80	116,000
K3JT	A	732	79	115,656
W4YE	A	714	80	114,240
W4ZYT	M	714	80	113,920
K4EU	A	721	79	113,918
K3TM	A	730	78	113,880
K1HTV	A	661	80	105,760
W3HVQ	U	659	78	102,804
K7SV	A	638	80	102,080
W3BP	B	671	75	100,650
W2CS	Q	635	77	97,790
NC3Y	A	622	77	95,788
N3OC	U	591	80	94,560
W3CB	A	606	76	92,112
K3DI	U	572	80	91,520
N3II	B	581	78	90,636
K4MA	B	575	77	88,550
K3WA	B	550	78	85,800
WX3B	U	539	78	84,084
K3SV	U	521	80	83,360
N4CW	B	520	79	82,160
W3MC	#	###	##	77,400
N4GG	B	483	76	73,416
WK4Y	B	528	66	69,696
W4TNX	U	434	80	69,440
W2CDO	A	455	75	68,250
W3AZ	B	425	77	65,450
K2UOP	B	388	77	59,752
K4ZW	B	388	75	58,200
K2AV	B	401	72	57,744
W3CP	A	340	75	51,000
N2NFG	A	361	70	50,540
W3LJ	M	335	75	50,250
W3DAD	A	343	71	48,706
W4RM	B	386	57	44,000

W4HM	A	298	70	41,720
KN1DX	A	272	72	39,168
W2GG	A	286	68	38,896
N4MM	A	215	80	34,400
K4EC	B	235	65	30,550
W4RIM	A	213	66	28,116
W4HJ	A	196	70	27,440
K3DSP	A	189	69	26,082
N4TL	B	154	55	16,940
W4PW	A	162	49	15,876
W8ZA	B	130	56	14,560
NR3X	A	118	49	11,564
KC9LC	A	118	52	12,272
N3FX	B	107	51	10,914
K3YDX	A	104	52	10,816
K1SO	A	1	1	2

Logs: 74 Club: 6,898,718

Other Scores of Interest

WP3R by KE3Q

B 1511 80 241,330

Operators (non-PVRC):

KN1DX: K1SE

NR3X: N4YDU

W3LJ: W3LJ (K3NCO)

W4MR: AA4NC

W4ZYT: W4ZYT W4SD N8CH KU4EC W8RJL W4WV WD4GOY K1KO AG4JT AF4CD

WR3L: K3FT WR3Z

KO7X at KI7WX QTH

KD4D at N3HBX QTH

ARRL PH SS#3 19-Nov-02

Call	Pre	QSOs	Sec	Score
AA4NC	B	1788	80	286,080
K3MM	B	1714	79	270,812
KD4D	U	1573	80	251,680
W4MYA	U	1533	80	245,280
K3ZO	B	1521	80	243,360
W4NF	U	1509	80	241,440
K4MA	U	1469	80	235,040
K2PLF	U	1443	80	231,360
KM4M	M	1374	80	219,840
K3PN	B	1282	80	204,960
WR3L	M	1243	80	198,880
NX9T	B	1063	80	170,080
N3FX	B	1022	80	163,520
N3PZN	M	952	80	152,320
N4GG	B	940	80	150,400

N3AM	U	832	80	133,120
N3II	U	813	80	130,080
K3DI	M	766	80	122,560
WX3B	U	706	80	112,960
K4QPL	B	1191	80	109,400
W3HVQ	U	681	80	108,960
K3DNE	A	685	78	106,680
N4GU	B	651	80	104,160
W4IDX	A	637	80	101,920
W3MC	#	###	##	94,200
W3ZZ	B	570	79	90,060
W3LJ	M	556	80	88,960
W3LL	A	550	80	88,000
N4CW	B	546	80	87,360
K2UOP	B	436	80	69,760
K3DSP	A	417	78	65,052
N4MM	A	383	80	61,280
WK4Y	A	340	80	54,400
K3KO	U	326	80	52,160
K4EU	A	341	72	49,104
K1KO	A	275	76	41,800
K3SWZ	Q	264	71	37,488
AF4CD	A	###	##	36,960
W3DQ	A	242	75	36,300
K3SV	U	226	80	36,160
W4TNX	A	223	80	35,680
K4TMC	A	283	55	31,130
K1SO	A	215	69	29,670
AJ3M	B	201	69	27,738
W2GG	A	200	69	27,600
W4HJ	U	206	65	26,780
W2CS	B	280	46	25,760
W4SD	A	200	64	25,600
KT3D	A	144	61	17,568
W3CP	A	141	58	16,356
W4ZYT	B	100	57	11,400
W3DAD	A	98	48	9,408

Logs: 52 Club: 5,568,626

Other Scores of Interest

WP3R by KE3Q

Operators (non-PVRC):

K3PZN: N3VOP K1RH AK3Z N3YIM W3ARS WX3B WX3F

AA3XZ K3ZE N3SB (N3GQJ N3GQK)

KM4M: K4JA W3BP

W3LJ: W3LJ W3IDT (K3NCO)

W4MR: AA4NC

WR3L: WR3Z

K3FT at WR3L QTH

K4QPL from N4AF QTH

KD4D from N3HBX QTH